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Collective Action and Social Movements
PLSC 356a and SOCY 346a

In this course we will analyze demonstrations, land occupations, strikes, abortion clinic blockades, suicide bombing, revolutions, and other forms of collective action. We will explore why people engage in collective action and how different forms of collective action emerge and evolve. We will study several cases, including the US civil rights movement, labor movements in South Africa and Brazil, terrorist collective action, revolutionary social movements in Central America, genocidal collective action in Rwanda, contemporary collective action by members of low-income, multi-ethnic urban communities in the US, and transnational social movements, particularly the anti-globalization movement. We will analyze several theoretical approaches to the understanding of social movements, including the political process, rational choice, social network, and social preference models. The methodical approaches will range from ethnographic field research to mathematical models.

Class Meeting: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12:20. 220 York, Rm. 101
Email: elisabeth.wood@yale.edu.
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:30 (sign up on office door), 8 Prospect Place, room 108.

Teaching Assistants: Tarek Masoud and Shiru Wang
Section meetings and office hours to be announced.

Course Requirements: There will be an in-class mid-term (25% of the final grade). Each participant is required to write a final paper (15-20 pages, 50%) analyzing a social movement of his or her choice in light of the issues discussed in the course. The section grade (25%) will depend on participation in section and on five short reviews (no more than 2 single-spaced pages) of course readings that include a concise summary of the argument and evidence, assess its strengths and weaknesses, and raise questions for discussion. The reviews should be emailed to all section members.

Course Materials:

Books available for purchase at Book Haven.

Aldon Morris. *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movements: Black Communities Organizing for Social Change*. (Free Press, 1984)

Gay Seidman. *Manufacturing Militance: Workers' Movements in Brazil and South Africa, 1970-1985*. (University of California Press 1994)

Elisabeth Jean Wood. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Richard L. Wood. *Faith in Action: Religion, Race and Democratic Organizing in America*. (University of Chicago Press 2002).

Philip Gourevitch. *We Wish to Inform you that Tomorrow We will be Killed with our Families*. (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998).

Other course readings will available on the course website (restricted to class members).

Course Outline

September 1. Introduction

Film: "Nashville: 'We Were Warriors'." From *A Force More Powerful: a century of nonviolent conflict.*

September 6. The US civil rights movement

Aldon Morris. 1984. *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movements: Black Communities Organizing for Social Change*. Free Press.

September 8. Theoretical perspectives I: the political process model

excerpts from Doug McAdam. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago. Reprinted in Doug McAdam and David A. Snow, eds., *Social Movements: Readings on Their Emergence, Mobilization, and Dynamics* (Roxbury 1997).

September 13. The French Revolution as a political process

John Markoff. 1997. Peasants help destroy an old regime and defy a new one: some lessons from (and for) the study of social movements. *American Journal of Sociology* 102: 1113-42.

September 15. Theoretical perspectives II: Social networks. Case study Freedom Summer

Doug McAdam. 1986. Recruitment to high-risk activism: the case of Freedom Summer. *American Journal of Sociology* 92 (1): 64-90.

September 20 and 22: Theoretical perspectives III: Class. Case studies South Africa and Brazil

Karl Marx, [1904]. "Preface" from *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*. C. H. Kerr.

Gay Seidman. 1994. *Manufacturing Militance: Workers' Movements in Brazil and South Africa, 1970-1985*. University of California

Film: South Africa: "Freedom in Our Lifetime." From *A Force More Powerful: a century of nonviolent conflict.*

September 27. The US labor movement

Michael Wallerstein and Bruce Western. 2000. Unions in Decline? What has changed and why. *Annual Review of Political Science* 3:355-77

September 29. Theoretical perspectives IV: Rational actor approaches

Dennis Chong. 1991. Chapters 1-3 of *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*. Chicago.

October 4. Games people play

Class exercise

October 6. Revolutionary social movements. Case study El Salvador

Elisabeth Jean Wood. 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge.

October 11. Theoretical perspectives V: Social preferences

Samuel Bowles. 2004. Chapter 3 from *Microeconomics.* Princeton.

October 13
Mid-term.

October 18. Religious bases of multi-ethnic collective action

Richard L. Wood. 2002. *Faith in Action: Religion, Race and Democratic Organizing in America.* Chicago

Guest lecturer: Richard Wood, University of New Mexico

October 20. The living wage movement

Levi, Margaret, David Olson, and Erich Steinman. 2002-3. Living Wage Campaigns and Laws. *Working USA* 6 (3):111-132.

October 25 Christian conservatives as a social movement

Williams, Rhys. 2002. From the `Beloved Community' to `Family Values': Religious Language, Symbolic Repertoires, and Democratic Culture. In *Social Movements: Identity, Culture, and the State*, eds., David S. Meyer, and

Belinda Robnett. Oxford.

Rhys Williams and Jeffrey Neal Blackburn. 1996. Many are called but few obey: ideological commitment and activism in Operation Rescue. In Christian Smith, ed., *Disruptive Religion: The Force of Faith in Social Movement Activism*. Routledge

Brian Donovan. 1988. Political consequences of private authority: promise keepers and the transformation of hegemonic masculinity. *Theory and Society*, 27 (6): 817-43.

Paper abstract due in section.

October 27. Islamic movements in the Middle East

November 1, 3 and 8. Genocide as collective action. Case-study Rwanda

Philip Gourevitch. 1998. *We Wish to Inform you that Tomorrow We will be Killed with our Families*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

Film. Panorama: 10 years later

November 10. Terrorist collective action

Martha Crenshaw. 1981. The Causes of Terrorism. *Comparative Politics.* 13:397-99.

Mark Juergensmeyer. 2000. Theater of Terror. Chapter 7 of *Terror in the Mind of God.* California.

Leonard Weinberg, Ami Pedahzur, and Daphna Canetti-Nisim. 2003. The Social and Religious Characteristics of Suicide Bombers and Their Victims. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 15(3): 139-53.

Optional: Robert Pape. 2003. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review* 97: 343-61.

Paper outline and bibliography due in section.

November 15. Tiananmen Square: a social movement in China

Guest lecturer: Shiru Wang.

November 17. Transnational social movements

selections from Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics.* Cornell

Sanjeev Khagram. 1999. Toward democratic governance for sustainable development: transnational civil society organizing around big dams. In Ann Florini, ed., *The Third Force: The Rise of Transnational Civil Society*, 83-114. Carnegie.

November 15-17: first draft of paper due in section (optional)

November 29: The "anti-globalization" movement

Sidney Tarrow. 2003. 'Global' movements, complex internationalism, and North-South inequality. Paper for presentation to the Workshop on Contentious Politics, Columbia University, October 27, 2003.

William C. Smith and Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz. 2003. Transnational Social Movements, Elite Projects, and Collective Action from Below in the Americas. Forthcoming in *Regionalism's 'Third Wave' in the Americas*, eds. Louise Fawcett and Monica Serrano. Routledge.

December 1. Conclusion

Papers due in section.